

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

Date: September 3, 2002
To: Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks
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COVER MESSAGE:

Enclosed is Response After Final for S/N 09/305,234

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Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative

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Signature

9-3-02

Date of Signature



Our Case No.: 10022/248

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Guyan et al.

Serial No.: 09/305,234

Filing Date: May 4, 1999

For: Component Based Task Handling

During Claim Processing

Examiner: S. Rimell

Group Art Unit No.: 2175

RESPONSE AFTER FINAL

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed June 3, 2002, applicants submit the
following remarks. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

First, Applicants note that box 2b) on the Office Action Summary was checked as
indicating that the Office Action is "non-final." However, Applicants also note that the
Examiner stated on page 4 of the Office Action that "this action is made final." The

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undersigned attorney checked the PAIR system, which indicates that the rejection was made final. Accordingly, it is assumed that the Office Action Summary sheet had the wrong box checked, and this response is accordingly being submitted pursuant to 37 CFR 1.116.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-21 were rejected 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lau (U.S. Patent No. 5,987,247). Applicants respectfully traverse that rejection.

The presently claimed invention is directed to a computer program for handling tasks that “allows a user to input rules which dictate which of the tasks should be selected based on predetermined events.” Claims 1, 8 and 15 are the three independent claims which each require that either a “client component” to be adapted to carry out that function (Claims 1 and 15) or the “computer program” to be adapted to carry out that function (Claim 8).

In contrast to Lau, the present claimed invention is directed to the environment where the programmers code the computer program, and the users are the business personnel who work with the same executing computer program code to carry out the tasks and achieve a goal, which, for example, may be an insurance related goal, as claimed in Claims 6, 13 and 20. In this context, the users are the business personnel who perform the business functions supported by the computer program and who may use the computer program also to input new rules and new tasks to modify the business logic

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design of the system without having to modify the computer program code. For example, the present application at page 184, lines 5-26, describes a preferred embodiment of how the program creates a user interface to allow the users to input tasks and rules into the Task Library database 1500 to achieve a flexible system in which business processes may be quickly changed without recoding the program.

In contrast to the claimed invention, Lau fails to disclose or suggest a computer program for handling tasks that also is adapted to "allow a user to input rules which dictate which of the tasks should be selected based on predetermined events" as required by claims 1, 8 and 15. Applicants submit that the Examiner has not asserted and Lau does not teach a "client component of" or "a computer program for handling tasks" which allows a user to input the rules for the tasks. In the Office Action, the Examiner asserted that "it is set of objects and relationships for those objects which are defined by the user. Accordingly, it includes both data and rules that provide relationships for that data." (page 3). The Examiner also asserted that "the entire purpose of the Lau invention is to generate software that performs tasks based on user defined rules." (page 4). Applicants do not dispute that Lau includes this generalized teaching on how a software developer may use a first software tool to create a second software code that incorporate rules predefined by the users. However, Applicants submit Lau does not teach that the software code created to carry out those rules is itself adapted to allow a user to input those rules by using the software code itself or a client component of the

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software. In other words, Lau teaches that a programmer or developer would first need to obtain the rules from the business personnel and then use the software development system of FIG. 3 (a first computer program) to generate software code (a second computer program) to carry out those rules. (col. 8, lines 29-31 and 46-67).

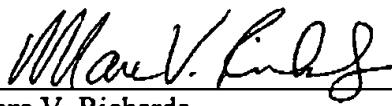
In summary, Lau teaches a first program that allows input of rules, which then generates a second program to carry out those rules. In contrast, Claims 1, 8 and 15 require that the computer program carrying out the rules to handle the tasks allows input of the rules by the user and then carrying out those rules.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection is overcome and the claims are in condition for allowance. Should there be any matters of a formal nature to be clarified, please call the undersigned attorney in order to expedite allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 9-3-02



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